

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5088

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINR, PFOR, TH

SUBJ: THE THAI INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION DELEGATION

SUMMARY: THE NORMALLY PRO FORMA DESIGNATION OF THE THAI DELEGATION TO THE SEMI-ANNUAL INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) CONFERENCE STIMULATED STRONG DISCUSSION WITHIN THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (NLA) STEERING COMMITTEE. PROFESSORIAL NLA MEMBERS ALMOST COMPLETELY OUTMANEUVERED THE POLITICIANS. THE RESULTING THAI DELEGATION IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS ONES. PROFESSORS AND WOMEN HAVE SUPPLEMENTED ALL BUT TWO OF THE PREVIOUS JUNKETEERS. END SUMMARY.

1. NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (NLA) SPEAKER, M.R. KHUKRIT PRAMOT, CONVENED THE NLA STERRING COMMITTEE MARCH 12 TO SELECT THE THAI DELEGATION FOR THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION CONFERENCE AT BUCHAREST APRIL 15-20. HE PROPOSED THAT NLA MEMBER DR. PRAMOT NAKHONTHAP COULD BEST REPRESENT THAILAND, AND CONTINUED THAT DR. CHAI-ANAN SAMUTWANIT SHOULD ACCOMPANY AS ADVISER. THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY, DR. SANO UNAKUN, THEN MENTIONED THAT THE IPU WAS AN IMPORTANT CONFERENCE TO WHICH THE NLA SHOULD ALSO

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SEND EXPERIENCED DELEGATES. HE NOMINATED MAJOR GENERAL

SIRI SIRIYOTHIN TO HEAD THE DELEGATION. SIRI COMMENTED ON THE VALUABLE EXPERIENCES GAINED FROM ATTENDING THE IPU CONFERENCE. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION THE STERRING COMMITTEE DECIDED TO SEND SIX OF ITS ELEVEN MEMBERS TO THE BUCHAREST IPU CONFERENCE, PLUS CHAI-ANAN AS AN ADVISOR AND TWO NLA STAFFERS. THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO ALLOW 15 DAYS TRAVEL TIME IN ORDER TO COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS TO ENTER RUMANIA. THE DISCUSSION IN THE STERRING COMMITTEE WAS POLITE, BUT STRAINED. IF SANO HAD NOT SPOKEN UP, THE PROFESSORS ALONE WOULD HAVE GONE.

2. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE THAI DELEGATES TO THE 114TH MEETING OF THE IPU (NAMES IN PARENTHESIS ARE COMMON, BUT LESS PHONETIC SPELLINGS):

A. MAJOR GENERAL SIRI SIRIYOTHIN, LEADER OF THE DELEGATION. SIRI WAS SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE LAST ELECTED PARLIAMENT 1969-71 AND PRESIDENT OF THE APPOINTED NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY 1972-73. HE LOST TO KHUKRIT PRAMOT IN THE ELECTION FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE PRESENT NLA. SIRI HAS LED THAI DELEGATIONS TO INNUMERABLE IPU CONFERENCES.

B. DR. SANO UNAKUN (SNOH UNAKUL, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE DELEGATION. SNAO RECENTLY BECAME SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD AFTER SERVING AS DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY OF COMMERCE SINCE 1972. HE HOLDS A PH.D IN ECONOMICS FROM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. SANO IS ALSO A VETERAN IPU ATTENDEE. HIS WIFE, NONGNUT, A DENTIST, WILL ACCOMPANY HIM TO BUCHAREST.

C. DR. PRAMOT NAKHONTHAP (PRAMOTE NAKORNTHAB), A PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY AND A POLITICAL ACTIVIST. HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE CONSTITUTION DRAFTING COMMITTEE FOLLOWING THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN OCTOBER 1973. HE STUIED AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

D. MRS. CHINTANA YOTSUNTHON (CHINTANA YODSUNTHORN), PROFESSOR AND CHIEF REGISTRAR AT RAMKHAMHAENG UNIVERSITY, UNTIL 1973 SHE WAS A PROFESSOR OF MODERN LANGUAGES AT
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CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY.

E. MRS. AMPHON MISUK (AMPORN MESSEOOK), CURRENTLY DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY IN THE EDUCATION MINISTRY. SHE IS THE FIRST WOMAN TO ATTAIN THIS RANK IN THE THAI CIVIL SERVICE. SHE HAS A PH.D FROM HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

F. MRS. LOESAK SOMBATSIRI (LERSAK SOMBATSIRI),

CHAIRMAN OF BANGKOK'S WHITE BUS COMPANY AND A PROMINENT MEMBER OF SEVERAL SOCIAL AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS. LOESAK'S DAUGHTER, MISS SANHAPIT SOMBATSIRI, WILL ACCOMPANY HER TO BUCHAREST.

G. DR. CHAI ANAN SAMUTWANIT (CHAI-ANAND SAMUTVANICH), ADVISOR TO THE DELEGATION, CHAI-ANAN IS A LECTURER IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION AND AT THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE CONSTITUTION DRAFTING COMMITTEE. CHAI-ANAN RECEIVED ENOUGH VOTES FOR ELECTION TO THE PRESENT NLA, BUT WAS NOT SEATED BECAUSE HE IS YOUNGER THAN 35, THE MINIMUM AGE OF MEMBERSHIP. HE IS ASSOCIATED WITH DR. PRAMOT NAKHONTHAP IN A POLITICALLY ACTIVIST GROUP KNOWN AS "SERI THAM" (FREEDOM AND MORALITY).

H. PARADA BURANASIRI, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY OF THE DELEGATION. PARADA IS CHIEF OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS DIVISION IN THE NLA SECRETARIAT. HE USUALLY ACCOMPANIES THAI DELEGATIONS TO IPU MEETINGS.

I. BURISAK NAMWAT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE DELEGATION. BURISAK IS A YOUNG MEMBER OF THE NLA SECRETARIAT.
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